



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
[www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/765,038	01/28/2004	Ebe Hesterman	3962 0160	9613
7590	07/05/2006			
Dreiss, Fuhlendorf, Steimle & Becker Patentanwalte Postfach 10 37 62 Stuttgart, D-70032 GERMANY				EXAMINER JOHNSON, JONATHAN J
				ART UNIT 1725
				PAPER NUMBER DATE MAILED: 07/05/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/765,038	HESTERMAN, EBE	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Jonathan Johnson	1725	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 May 2006.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.                    2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 38-56 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 41,42 and 45-55 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 38-40,43 and 44 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) 38-55 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
  1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                    | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
|   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.                                   |

**DETAILED ACTION*****Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 38-40, 43-44, and 56 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US 6,122,898 (De Kort). De Kort teaches a first processing roller and a second processing rolling having a working gas (figure 2a, rollers); means for inserting the substrate in a feed direction (figure 1, item 6); tool parts cooperating with at least one of the first and second processing rollers to process the substrate in said working gap (figure 2, item 20); means for register controlled transport of the substrate using at least one first gripper cooperating with one of said first and second processing rollers (figure 2, item 24); and a disposal device located downstream of the working gap for collecting processing waste (figure 2, item 9); wherein the first and second processing rollers feed a downstream second gripper acting on the substrate, said downstream second gripper disposed in one of a delivery roller, a transfer roller, and a discharge device (figure 2, item 24); where the delivery roller and transfer roller effects transfer together with at least one downstream conveyor belt and said discharge device to accept the substrate and/or waste (figure 1, items 25); wherein to support separation of waste from the substrate, the disposal device comprises at least one vacuum suctioning unit and a pressurized air system

Art Unit: 1725

facing the first and second processing rollers (figure 2, item 29); where the discharge device comprises a table, said table having an upper side which accepts and removes a finished piece and with a receiving end defining a passage gap together with a lower one of said first and second processing rollers, said passage gap for downwardly directed passage to said disposal device of a waste portion resulting from punching (figure 2, item 9); means disposed at and end of said working gap, for splitting off and separating the finished part from the waste portion and for simultaneously passing the finished part to a finished part transport means and the waste portion to a waste portion transport means using at least two independent independent delivery streams (figure 2, conveyors, where the examiner interprets the 'waste' portion as one of the two conveyors).

#### *Response to Arguments*

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 38-40, 43-44 and 56 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

#### *Conclusion*

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jonathan Johnson whose telephone number is 571-272-1177. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 7:30 AM-5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Pat Ryan can be reached on 571-272-1292. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 1725

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Jonathan Johnson  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 1725

jj